

REMARKS

FORMAL MATTERS:

Claims 1-36 were previously cancelled.

Claims 37-45 were examined and rejected.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims in view of the remarks made herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER §103(A)

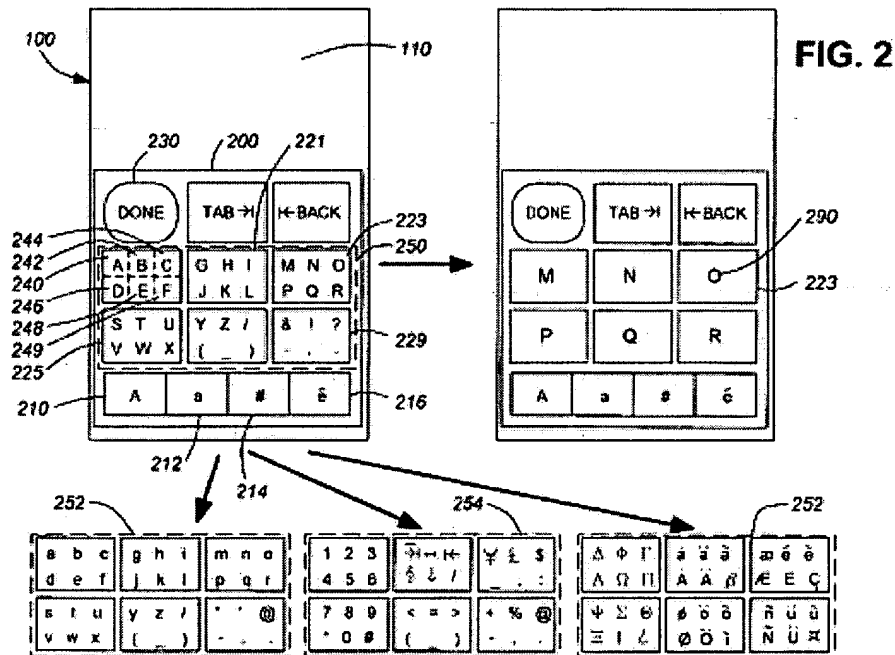
In the Office Action, claims 37-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jasinski et al (EP0733963) in view of Hoeksma (U.S. Patent No. 6,271,835). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In making this rejection, the Examiner asserts that Jasinski teaches all of the elements of the claimed invention but for the element of a plurality of soft keys provided on the keypad. For this element, the Examiner looks to Hoeksma. Further, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the soft keys of Jasinski to be provided on a keypad as taught by Hoeksma since the input keys are re-labeled in a manner which corresponds to their relative position within the selected input key. As will be demonstrated below, the Examiner's *prima facie* case is deficient because Hoeksma fails to teach or suggest the element of having a plurality of soft keys on the keypad that display a first set of secondary alphanumeric symbols from the actuated first hard key as presently claimed.

The Applicants invention relates to a method for data entry and display. The keypad includes a plurality of hard keys and soft keys with each hard key having a primary alphanumeric symbol and is associated with a set of secondary alphanumeric symbols. Once a hard key has been actuated, the plurality of soft keys displays the corresponding set of secondary alphanumeric symbols. In other words, selection of a secondary alphanumeric symbol only requires selection of a hard key then selection of the specific secondary alphanumeric symbol from a soft key. As such, the Applicants submit that Hoeksma does not teach or suggest a plurality of soft keys on a keypad.

With respect to Hoeksma, the reference is directed to a touch-screen device for the input of alphanumeric data. According to the specification, sub-arrays or groups of characters are mapped to

input keys wherein successive keystrokes can uniquely identify every character therein. An example of Hoeksma's input device is demonstrated in Figure 2 below.



It is evident from the Office Action that the Examiner is relying on Hoeksma to provide the element of a plurality of soft keys located on the keyboard. However, it is unclear which set of keys the Examiner believes to be equivalent to the soft keys of the present invention. According to Figure 2 of Hoeksma, the keypad comprises four assignment keys (ref #s 210, 212, 214, 216) and six character keys (ref #s 220, 221, 223, 225, 227, and 229). As set forth below, the assignment keys and character keys operate in a completely different manner than the soft keys in the Applicants invention.

The character keys are divided into six elements (ref #s 242, 244, 246, 248, 249) each of which can be preferentially selected by using a stylus. Alternatively, the character keys get remapped to display the six elements as clearly evident from the keyboard on the right in Figure 2. For example, actuating the MNOPQR character key 223 results in each of the six character keys, including character key 223, displaying M, N, O, P, Q, and R, respectively. After selecting the letter, the user must wait until the character keys re-label in order to continue entering data. This is very different from the Applicants invention wherein actuating a "character key", a second discrete set of keys displays the associated alphanumeric characters therefore, not requiring waiting for the keys to re-label.

Furthermore as provided by Hoeksma, the four assignment keys (ref #s 210, 212, 214, 216) determine which of the alternative character arrays are mapped to the character keys (ref #s 220, 221, 223, 225, 227, and 229). The character arrays are a stored set of alphanumeric characters that upon selection of one of the assignment keys, the device remaps the character keys to display one of the saved arrays. Once remapped with the selected array, each character key displays six elements requiring a user to proceed with the same steps for data entry as described above. For example, actuating assignment key #210 results in character keys 220, 221, 223, 225, 227, and 229 displaying the lower case elements of array 252. The user must next select the element by using a stylus or remapping the six elements on the character keys. Finally, the user must wait for the keys to re-label in order to continue entering data. Accordingly, selecting Hoeksma's assignment key when entering data requires the use of a stylus or an extra step of key selection and a waiting period for the character keys to re-label. Therefore, the assignment keys are not equivalent to the Applicants claimed soft keys.

Therefore, Hoeksma fails to teach or suggest a keypad comprising a plurality of soft keys that display the alphanumeric characters associated with the hard keys. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not modify Jasinski in view of Hoeksma because Hoeksma provides a keypad that functions entirely different than Jasinski or the Applicants invention.

In view of the foregoing discussion, claims 37-45 are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Jasinski in view of Hoeksma and this rejection may therefore be withdrawn.

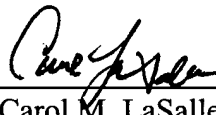
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number LIFE-052.

Respectfully submitted,
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

Date: July 25, 2005

By: 
Carol M. LaSalle
Registration No. 39,740

BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP
1900 University Avenue, Suite 200
East Palo Alto, California 94303
Telephone: (650) 327-3400
Facsimile: (650) 327-3231

F:\DOCUMENT\LIFE\052\Resp to OA of 060105.doc